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After having talked with people from every section of the State, I have decided to offer for the Democratic nomination as Governor in the forthcoming primary.

I feel that my twenty-three years of public service as a school teacher, county superintendent of education, state senator, circuit judge and soldier qualify me for the varied responsibilities of this office.

We need a change in South Carolina, a big change. The people are demanding it. Under our system of government, it is vital that the governor furnish effective leadership and not allow the functions of that office to be usurped or controlled by others. As Governor, I shall see that the office is conducted on the high plane on which it should stand.

It would be too much in one statement to attempt to discuss all of the fundamental issues which the State must face, but I would like to mention a few of the most outstanding.

I wish to express myself first of all on the liquor question. The people of South Carolina should decide this issue for themselves. I am a dry, but the governor cannot in good conscience promise a solution of this question because he does not make the laws. The people of each county will have an opportunity this summer to elect to the General Assembly legislators who will express their wishes in the form of legislation. If the duly elected representatives of the people shall enact a prohibition law, I shall sign that law. If the duly elected representatives of the people shall enact county option, I shall sign that law. If the duly elected representatives of the people shall enact any other law that will help control the liquor situation, I shall sign that measure. In any event, I pledge myself to enforce to the best of my ability whatever law on this subject the duly elected representatives of the people may regard as expressing the wishes of the people. Personally, I should not like to see our state in the liquor business, and I shall never advocate any form of state dispensary.

Before announcing my candidacy for governor, I tendered to the Chief Justice and to the Governor my resignation from the circuit bench. I did this to avoid any possibility that the judiciary of our state might, to the slightest extent, be involved in political discussion. I know from my years of service on the bench the high esteem in which our people hold the Courts, and everyone may rest assured that I will respect the sentences of our courts, and that I will not use the power of executive clemency to undo their judgments.

I am strongly against the state police system. I believe that law enforcement should be close to the people, and that law enforcement in general should be left to the counties and municipalities. The State Highway Patrol has done a wonderful job through the years in its specialized work. From my observation as a Judge, I feel that the people of the various counties and communities in this state can be depended upon to select Sheriffs, county police, and municipal police who will see that the law is enforced.

No one knows better than I do the great debt which the people of the state and nation owe to the young men and women who entered the service of our country in the war. A veteran of three and a half years of army service myself, a large part of which was spent in both the European and Pacific Theaters, I saw with my own eyes their sacrifices and hardships. I will champion every worthwhile activity in their behalf. They should be given every opportunity to catch up on their education, and the state should do its full part, in cooperation with the Federal Government, to help them make up for what they lost while at war.

So much for the past and present. The most vital problem facing us in the next four years is the future of our state. We stand on the threshold of an opportunity which we shall never see again in our lifetime. The post-war world offers unlimited possibilities to develop and exploit our natural resources; to encourage industrial and business establishment and location within our borders; to plan and perfect transportation facilities and marketing methods to increase the income of our farmers; and, in general, through trade and commerce with the rest of the nation and in world markets, to strive to raise the economic level of our state and of our people, and capitalize on our finest crop, our young people as they come of age, so that they can stay here and contribute to the future prosperity and welfare of South Carolina, and will not be forced to go elsewhere to find the opportunities in life to which they are justly entitled.

If we do this, we can quickly modernize and expand our public school and college facilities; guarantee to our teachers the compensation which they deserve and the future which their profession should enjoy; bring about the increase in the wages of our working people and in the farm income of our state, without which we shall never be a great state; broaden and expand our programs of public health, public welfare, and assistance to the aged, the blind, and our dependent children; and furnish to business, industry, and agriculture the conditions under which our system of free enterprise can best work and prosper.

We dare not, we must not, fail to meet the challenge of the future. We need a progressive outlook, a progressive program, and a progressive leadership. We must face the future with confidence and with enthusiasm. I pledge my faithful and unflagging

efforts to develop and carry out such a program. ~~I invite every man and woman of the Democratic Party of South Carolina in the accomplishment of this program.~~

to help

I want every man and woman of the Democratic Party of South Carolina to join in the accomplishment of this program, and invite your support in my campaign for Governor.